

## VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS FROM AREA SCHOOLS FROM THE CLASS OF 2003



Elba High School  
Benjamin Bartlett  
Barnes  
Valedictorian



Elba High School  
Carla Ann Roberts  
Salutatorian



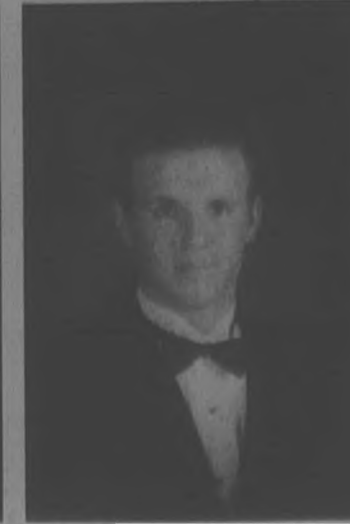
Kinston High School  
Tara Williams  
Valedictorian



Kinston High School  
Ashley Johnson  
Salutatorian



Zion Chapel  
High School  
Amanda Jean Perry  
Valedictorian



Zion Chapel  
High School  
James Jedediah  
Simmons  
Salutatorian



New Brockton  
High School  
Rena Donaldson  
Valedictorian



New Brockton  
High School  
Melanie McGlothren  
Salutatorian



Brantley High School  
Amy Walker  
Valedictorian

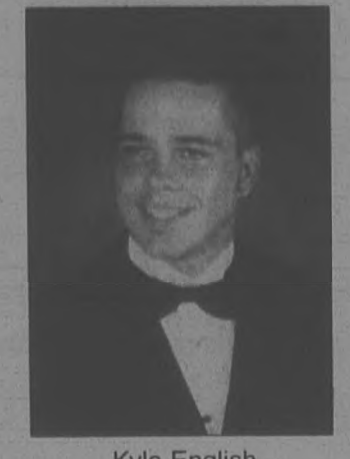


Brantley High School  
Misti Frazier  
Salutatorian

### Congratulations

Kyle English

and to all the  
Graduating  
Seniors.

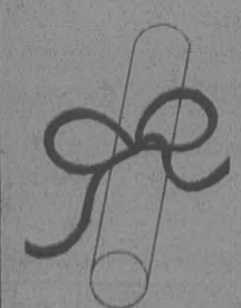


Kyle English

**ELBA FRAME & GIFT**  
818 Simmons St. - Elba  
897-3393



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2003!



We wish you well as  
you go forward into the  
next stage of your life.



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Federal Credit Union**



Call 1-800-448-4096 or (334)598-4411 or stop by  
one of our convenient locations: Dothan-North,  
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Ozark-North, Ozark-South, Fort Rucker,  
Mobile-West,  
Mobile, Downtown, Troy.  
[www.aafcu.com](http://www.aafcu.com)

Our Very  
Best Wishes  
To  
the  
2003  
Seniors  
Upon  
Their



**GRADUATION**

The world awaits you!!!

From All Your

**BIG/LITTLE  
STORES**

In Elba and Throughout  
the Wiregrass Area

ARCHIVES/COLLECTION MAN 1-1-20K  
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Josh and Kim  
Manning  
announce birth  
of their son

INSIDE  
New Brockton's  
Dusty Medley  
honored with  
award

INSIDE  
Elba High's  
Justin Allen signs  
golf scholarship

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 49

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, May 22, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages

## Solemn luminary ceremony highlights Coffee County's annual Relay for Life



HOPE AND FAITH PREVAILED as cancer survivors, friends and family members turned out by the hundreds last Friday evening to light luminaries in honor of and/or memory of cancer survivors and victims. The annual Relay For Life gathering is held each year on the campus of Enterprise Jr. College and support continues to grow. Above Debbie Curran, of Elba, is shown preparing to light one of the thousands of luminaries placed around the college track field. She was participating as part of the Relay for Life team from Elba United Methodist Church.

## Elba schools planning no program cuts

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Elba School Superintendent Danny Weeks said this week that the Elba City School Board would continue "business as usual" in wake of the much reported shortfall in state education dollars.

Weeks explained that for many years the Elba system has routinely issued pink slips to all non-tenured staff members at the end of the year. Then when state funding matters are clearer, personnel are rehired.

The superintendent explained that past cost-cutting and dedication of administrators, teachers and support staff has placed Elba in the enviable position of having a strong financial sheet to help with the carry over into the new year. Adding to that is the new City of Elba alcohol tax, which is expected to support at least one teacher unit each year.

Weeks said even in the worst case situation, the Elba school system will not cut any education or athletic programs in the coming year. "We are not going to get into making such threats," Weeks added.

**\*NOTICE\***  
The Coffee County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, in the Coffee County Commission community room.

This meeting is required by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1980).

A public hearing on the Coffee County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan will also be conducted and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please contact the Elba County Emergency Management Agency at 897-3393.

With budget questions still unanswered by state

## County BOE forced to begin cutbacks

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held a special called meeting Tuesday evening, May 13, and although several topics were discussed, the main purpose of the meeting seemed to be to handle some personnel matters.

Despite trying to be patient and hopeful, Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram said information from state officials is not encouraging, especially concerning budgets. She said some talk indicates it could be as late as August or September before budgets are released.

A special session of the legislature has been called; however, the school officials seemed to agree the system could not continue to operate on the unknown leading to current and upcoming personnel changes.

The following personnel changes were recommended by Ingram Tuesday evening and approved by a unanimous vote of the board:

**Terminated**  
\* Accept the resignation of Trent Trawick as head softball coach at New Brockton High School.

\* Accept the resignation of John Donaldson as head football coach at Zion Chapel High School.

\* Accept the resignation of Barbara Cole as girls basketball coach at New Brockton High School.

**Support**  
\* Transfer Evelyn Carpenter from her position as a CNP worker at Kinston School to a CNP worker at Zion Chapel School.

\* Transfer Kay Courson from a full-time CNP worker at Kinston School to a part-time worker at Kinston School.

\* Transfer Elizabeth Janie Cullifer from a part-time CNP worker at Kinston School to a full-time worker at Kinston School.

\* Transfer Shirley Goodson from her position as an instructional aide at Zion Chapel to an Indian Education aide at Zion Chapel School.

\* Transfer Brenda Johnson from her position as an alternative education aide countywide to a position as an instructional aide at Zion Chapel School.

\* Transfer Bobbie Williams from her position as an instructional aide at Zion Chapel School.

tional aide at Kinston School to an instructional aide at New Brockton Elementary School.

\* Non-renew Emily Kelley as a bus driver at New Brockton Schools at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew Teresa Brewer as a part-time WIA instructional aide at New Brockton High School at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew Dana Howell as a part-time WIA instructional aide at Kinston School at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew Alma Deanne Wallace from her full-time position as a WIA/ESL/Indian instructional aide at Zion Chapel School at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew Lindsey Kirk as a Registered Nurse at New Brockton School at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew Janet Holmes as a Registered Nurse at Zion Chapel School at the end of her contract (May 30, 2003).

\* Non-renew A.D. Flowers as a maintenance worker at New Brockton Schools at the end of his contract (June 30, 2003).

\* Employment of Lula Haynes, a part-time clerical worker at New Brockton High School, be terminated.

\* Employment of Earl Campbell, a maintenance worker at Zion Chapel/Kinston School, be terminated.

Ingram noted that the employment of Haynes and Campbell was terminated because the position was not needed.

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**VARIETY FOR THE TASTE BUDS...**The diversity of Elba's food industry improved this week as the newest restaurant, Mr. Ho's Chinese Buffet, opened for business. The unique smell of Chinese food filled the air Tuesday, May 20, as patrons filled the dining area of the business located at 522 North Claxton Avenue, Elba. Although Mr. Ho's is new to Elba, the restaurant is not new to the area. The original Mr. Ho's is located in Troy, Ala. and manager Vijay Nagpal said it has been a part of that community for approximately 15 years. The Elba Chamber of Commerce welcomed the opening of Mr. Ho's newest facility on Tuesday with an official ribbon cutting ceremony, and chamber members were joined by many others in sampling the delicacy. Those on hand to welcome the owners and business to Elba included (from left): Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Junior Miss Elba Cameron Irwin, Ronnie Whitworth, Vijay Nagpal, David Zheng - owner, Martha Easters, Doug Easters, Jian Zhang Yang - owner, Barry Giles, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Jerry Kelley, Jimmy Harrison, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Cammie Kelley, Doris Matthews, Dedra Cahley, Herby McCall, Mary McMillan, Miss Elba Anna Anderson and Henrietta Grimes.











# SCHOOLS



## Tiger Tales

Editor:  
Sheena Flowers

### Elba bands hold Spring concert

by Kimberly Farris

The Elba Elementary School and Elba High School bands performed their final concerts of the year on May 6 in the EHS auditorium.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band began the concert by playing several songs, wowing the audience with the outstanding musicianship of such young people who only started playing their instruments last fall. Next, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band played a variety of songs including *Secret Agent Man* and *The Tempest*.

After the Elementary bands concluded their part of the program, the Elba High School band took the stage and gave an outstanding performance.

Mr. Maddox and Mr. Ellis gave out many awards at the concert, but the most important award given was the John Philip Sousa Award. Katrina and Kimberly Farris both got a John Philip Sousa Award although only one is usually given. Courtney Pelham was awarded the Director's Award.

### EHS students complete collaborative project

Mrs. Crawford's Business and Computer Applications classes recently completed a simulated work project as they keyed in creative and directed writing assignments from seventh grade English students.

Seventh grade students have been writing a book as a portion of the library activities. The computer students in grades nine through twelve were given the students' handwritten folders. The work had to be set up in the correct format for publication.

Additionally, the computer classes' words had to meet Mrs. Crawford's standards for grading, as well as satisfy the requirements of Mrs. Calhoun and the seventh grade authors.

Most students put a lot of thought into their writings. Once these pages were proofed and printed, Mrs. Calhoun bound the books of those who brought covers. The name of the student who typed each book is

printed as a page in the book. Mrs. Calhoun, library media specialist, Mrs. Collins, English teacher, and Mrs. Crawford, computer teacher, rate this collaborative, cross curriculum project as a great success.

### Graduation often sparks emotions

by Blake Brunson

Graduation time often sparks many different emotions among all types of people. Seniors begin to think about their future, and what their new life will be like. Parents are proud seeing their babies become adults, but also sad that their babies are actually becoming adults. Others remember back to their high school days, some wishing they could go back and others glad those days are over. Some look at graduation as a time of sadness, thinking they are leaving all of their friends and the life they are so comfortable in. Whatever you may be feeling, here are some thoughts and quotes that may give you a new outlook on things. "Time is at once the most valuable and most perishable of all

our possessions." - John Randolph

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Look at life through the wind-shield, not the rear-view mirror." - Byrd Bagget

"I never think of the future-it comes soon enough." - Albert Einstein

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." - Albert Einstein

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt

### Elba Lady Tigers complete banner softball season

by Meredith English  
(with help from Yonnie Proctor)

If you can remember the Elba High School 2002 Varsity softball season, you would probably remember it as not one of the best seasons we have seen. If I can remember correctly the Lady Tigers had not won a game until the middle of the season at the beginning of the 2003 softball season.

Coach David Collins explained the difference of fast pitch and slow pitch softball. Elba High School has only played fast pitch for two seasons, including the season of 2003, (which helps to understand why the girls left with returned again at the beginning of the 2003 softball season).

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To determine the progress our



2003 Elba Lady Tiger Softball Team

varsity softball team has made in the past year, I'll make a comparison of two separate practices. Last year at a practice, the highest the pitching machine would be turned up to would be 60 revolutions per minute. Most of the girls would complain that the machine was pitching too fast. This last season the machine would be turned up to 100 rpm and one of the girls actually complained that the machine was pitching too slow.

With last year's season in mind the 2003 Lady Tigers softball team set out to Kingston on February 28. Even with all the fourth block practices and the "very intimidating black uniforms" (Robin Spurlin), the girls were still unsure of themselves. But still with the lack of confidence the girls came out on top with a win of 15-8. Not even a week later the Lady Tigers had another win behind them (11-3) against Daleville.

Everyone believes the turning point, for the confidence and attitudes, came when the girls left the Andalusia Tournament undefeated. Second baseman, Kristen Barnes agrees by simply stating "winning the Andalusia Tournament was amazing."

The next two games went as expected. Both games were against New Brockton and we won both games. The next tournament put a dent in the ego of our softball team. Out of the three games we lost two.

1-5 Goshen  
4-2 Rehobeth  
0-10 Theodore

For the next eleven games the Elba Lady Tigers played outstanding.

8-4 Kinston

### Editor's Note: Time to Say Goodbye

by Sheena Flowers

This is the final edition of Tiger Tales for the year. I say that with a sigh of relief and a small stab of pain. Okay really, it is more like disappointment.

I have enjoyed my time as editor: the headaches, the ulcers, the frantic searching for what I like to call "space filler."

I will miss going downtown every Thursday and bursting through the door of the Clipper and saying, "I'm here Linda! Don't kill me! I have it right here!" or something to that effect.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." - Albert Einstein

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt

"Time is at once the most valuable and most perishable of all

sure that the person who replaces me will do a fantastic job.

To Mary Katherine Head, Blake Brunson, Kaci Grantham, Yonnie Proctor, Alex Benbow, Katie Driggers, Brittany Cooper, Shawna Hill, Kimberly Farris, Meredith English, and Jessica Hathcock, I will miss ya'll like you wouldn't believe...who else am I going to pick on besides "the triplets" and who is going to listen to my ranting besides Jess?

Who will I give all the articles to that I didn't want to do? Wait, I'm a senior; I won't have to do articles anymore. When, talk about your "sigh of relief."

What I am trying to say is, I can't imagine not coming in everyday and seeing these people. I will miss them greatly and I hope they have a wonderful time next year. For the ones of them who are crazy enough to take journalism again, good luck.

Goodbye, Tiger Tales. Goodbye, journalism room. Goodbye deadlines, computer freezes and headaches. Goodbye, friends and staff. You did a wonderful job, and the paper wouldn't be half as good if I had to do it alone. Goodbye, Mrs. Norris. I will have something wonderful to say later, I am sure. Right now, could you pass the Tylenol?

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK...Smiles come easy for the Tiger Tales staff as they say so long and have a GREAT summer!

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Robin Spurlin kept the books and attended almost every game. She observed that the girls were very supportive of each other and were never critical.

Coach Collins agrees, the girls have "shown that they can get it done and have a good time doing it."

As an overall thought of the season Coach Amelia Rhoades "feels that the girls have really accomplished their goal by playing a ladder. Each step you take is different and presents its own challenges. Learning to read was probably the most difficult and the most important task that we faced. Dodgeball, juice at snack, and show and tell were all personal favorites of mine."

Junior High was a whole different world. Suddenly I was faced with a totally new schedule and a lot more freedom. This of course was pretty exciting, but it came with a lot of responsibilities. No one was there to hold our hand or put us in line anymore. It was a significant stepping-stone to what would be my final steps through the halls of New Brockton.

The weekend of May 9, the girls went to Montgomery to play their hearts out for the state championship. It would be the best two out of three games. Unfortunately we lost the first two.

Coach David Collins was "very pleased and surprised" and agreed with everyone in the fact

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton School News  
Sponsors: Lori Cotney & Lynn Baker

### NBES sixth graders look at the year in review

by Anthony Nevels and David Davidson

This year the sixth graders at school have had a lot of fun. Some of the activities we did were band camp, peanut Fun Day, pumpkin contest, raffle ticket sales, DARE Graduation, cotton Fun Day, and 4-H camp.

One of the activities was band camp. Band camp is for people who are going to march next year in the marching band. It is to teach people how to use their instruments and how to march correctly.

One of the sixth grade classes participated in peanut Fun Day. They learned a lot about when to plant and harvest peanuts. A T.V. crew filmed the class watching a tractor harvest peanuts.

Then the other sixth grade class went on a cotton Fun Day. We went to learn how to pick cotton, and then we had a cotton-picking contest. Afterwards we went to the Coffee County Cotton gin.

The whole school participated in a pumpkin decorating contest. Each class decorated a pumpkin that looked like their favorite book character. The judges decided the winner by creativity and beauty.

During the course of the year we had several raffle ticket sales. During one we had a chance to win a popcorn party. During another we had a chance to win a summer grill. In the biggest one of the year we had a chance

to win a free vacation. At the end of the year we will have a DARE Graduation. We have spent a whole year going through DARE lessons to come to the grand finale which is graduating from the DARE program. The last activity of the year is 4-

H camp. Some of the things that go on at 4-H camp is canoeing, rock climbing, and swimming. That is just three of the many activities that you can do there.

As you can see this year has been very busy for the sixth graders at NBES.

well as 2 tricks of their own choice.

13 girls tried out for colorguard and five for majorette. The final decision on the 03-04 auxiliary was as follows: Majorettes: Jessica Ogburn-captain, Chelsea Wood, Katie Richardson, Valerie Hutcherson, Diana Cotter. Colorguard: Angie Largess-captain, Chelsey Hollis-co captain, Megan Holloway, Delores Bell, Jessica Puller, Brittni Davis, Kora Farris, Amy Rogers, Gorgia Smith, Rachel Sulley.

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Robin Spurlin kept the books and attended almost every game. She observed that the girls were very supportive of each other and were never critical.

Coach Collins agrees, the girls have "shown that they can get it done and have a good time doing it."

As an overall thought of the season Coach Amelia Rhoades "feels that the girls have really accomplished their goal by playing a ladder. Each step you take is different and presents its own challenges. Learning to read was probably the most difficult and the most important task that we faced. Dodgeball, juice at snack, and show and tell were all personal favorites of mine."

Junior High was a whole different world. Suddenly I was faced with a totally new schedule and a lot more freedom. This of course was pretty exciting, but it came with a lot of responsibilities. No one was there to hold our hand or put us in line anymore. It was a significant stepping-stone to what would be my final steps through the halls of New Brockton.

### NBHS senior awarded for overcoming adversity

by Sonya Hornsby

NBHS senior Dusty Medley, knows first-hand how it feels to be on the brink of a promising final year of high school sports, to have it all taken away in one fleeting moment. During the last game of the 2002 Gamecock baseball season, Dusty collided with a teammate, sending him straight to the hospital in critical condition. Dusty underwent two surgeries, the second of which doctors removed his entire spleen.

That's when they told him that he probably would not be playing sports ever again.

What was soon to become apparent, however, was that even though this Gamecock was now without his spleen, he had enough heart to make up for any possible shortcomings. Dusty spent a week in the Intensive Critical Unit and two weeks slowly regaining his strength. He overcame this difficult moment in his life and fearlessly came right back playing football and baseball his senior year. He is a true testament to the heart of a Gamecock.

Much to his deserving, Dusty was awarded a scholarship only given to ninety-six statewide students. The Bryant-Jordan Student Athlete Program was created in 1986 by the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Dusty Medley was one of nine Wiregrass winners. His parents are Terry and Michelle Medley of the Damascus community. Dusty plans to attend Troy State University after graduation.



Dusty Medley

high school seniors from schools that are members of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

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SUPPORT  
OUR YOUTH  
& SCHOOLS

### First graders adopt military unit

by Chelsea Dempsey and Jessica Parrish

The first grade classes at NBES are adopting a unit over seas.

One of the children's father is in the unit they have adopted. The students will be writing letters and corresponding with the unit. The first grade has a box, which they decorated themselves, to collect needed items for the unit.

They are collecting: stationary, chapstick, sunscreen, pre-paid phone cards, and more. The students are happy to be actively involved with the unit.



### Coffee County Schools Menu

May 26-30, 2003

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Memorial Day Tuesday - Cheese Grits, Toast, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk Wednesday - Pot Luck Thursday - Pot Luck Friday - Muffins, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday - Memorial Day Tuesday - Peanut Butter Sandwich, Turkey Sandwich, Potatoes w/ Green Beans, Macaroni w/cheese, Rolls, Fruit, Milk Wednesday - Fish Nuggets, Pork Roast Sandwich, Potato Salad, Black-eyed peas Thursday - Hamburger, Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Potatoes w/ Cream Sauce Friday - No Lunch Served

### Top 10 Things To Do This Summer....

by Vanessa Stuckey, Anna Beth Sawyer and Brittny Eubanks

Whew! Summer is here and everyone has it on their mind.

With school creeping to an end, more activities are available for us. We know the students at New Brockton Elementary have summer on their minds with their "Top Ten Hottest Things to Do Over Summer Break!"

We surveyed several students to determine what they want to do this summer and of course going to the beach was number one.

1. Go to the beach

2. "Chill" with friends

3. Swimming

4. Playing sports

5. Go on family vacation

6. Go fishing

7. Shopping

8. Camping

9. Staying at home

10. Summer Camp

### 2002-03 year nearing its end

by Lori Wade

For some NBHS students, May 29 is the day that will change their lives forever. For others, it's a few months closer to the next school year, and time for a refreshing break.

The 2003 seniors will be taking their final walk down NBHS halls and into a new life, starting over as young adults. Graduation is a very happy, bittersweet time.

Always remember your times here at NBHS and all the friends you've made. Whatever you do when you leave here, make us proud.

To the Senior Class of 2003, good luck in your future. You have left your mark here and we will remember you always.

To the rest of the classes, have a great summer! We will see you back again in August!

HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!!!

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Units available for elderly, handicapped & disabled

Included FREE!



## SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Have you ever gone with someone to a family reunion and not known one single person there except the person you went with? Well, that was the case for me last weekend when I went with my wife to Baker, Florida, to attend a reunion of some of her distant relatives. I did meet some fine folks and felt right at home once we all sat down to Sunday dinner, and before we left I even met some folks that knew where Elba was and wanted to know why we tore down the crooked bridge. I guess you are never really far from home after all!

## SWINGS AND MISSES...

\*\*\* I talked with some of the Elba coaches last week and found out that when Elba High drops down to 2A for the 2004 season the Tigers will be in the same football region with New Brockton, Samson, Geneva County, Houston County, Houston Academy, Wickburg and Cottonwood. Luverne and G.W. Long will jump into another region and will not be region foes for the Tigers, but Luverne will remain on the schedule and will remain Elba's most year's team will soon sign junior college golf scholarships, while the remaining three members already have their sites set on a return to the state tournament and are hunting some young golfers to step in and help out. Golf is not a sport that draws a large crowd or grabs a lot of the headlines on the area sports pages. However, it has grown into a major sport here at Elba High and over the past three years has been very successful.

\*\*\* Even though I have never been a fan of Auburn football or basketball, I was saddened last week to hear of the passing of Auburn sports announcer Jim Fyffe. Fyffe had become famous reporting Auburn athletics over the years and even though many fans felt like he was a "home" of sorts, he was a class act whenever he was behind the microphone and was always just one of the guys. He announced at the South Alabama speedway on occasion many years ago when he was just getting started, and even did some youth football games on cable channels. His spot in the pressbox may never be filled, however, there is no question that he will be shooting "Touchdown Auburn" from his special seat high above Jordan-Hare as long as Auburn plays football.

\*\*\* The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources brought in 13 extra game wardens and had Eufaula police on hand in the parking lot last week when the department's Conservation Advisory Board voted to ban hunting deer with dogs in three Alabama counties and to restrict hunting with dogs in three other counties, including Coffee County. The added security was to prevent any problems that might have occurred from unhappy deer hunters, while the vote to ban and restrict hunting with dogs was made to prevent possible skirmishes between dog owners and land owners. The state officials reported the problem came when dogs would run deer off private property, but many deer hunters stated out loud that it was just the beginning and in years to come hunting with dogs would be wiped out a few counties at a time. I am not a deer hunter, but with all the cutting of trees that has taken place in recent years all across South Alabama, I have to believe that the big timber companies have taken charge of their lands and if someone wants to hunt, they will have to pay big bucks to bag big bucks.

\*\*\* In closing...the high school football season is less than four months away and I would once again like to urge the members of the Elba School Board to consider naming the field at Tiger Stadium the "Mack Wood Field." By having the stadium named Tiger Stadium it honors every single Elba Tiger that ever put on a helmet and pads. By naming the field "Mack Wood Field," it would honor the coach that pumped new life into the Elba High football program when it was down and led the Tigers and their fans to countless winning seasons, playoff games and two state championships. When Coach Wood retired all he got was a pat on the back. It is past time to honor the winningest coach in Elba football history and I hope the board members will realize this fact and do what is right!

## NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER!!!!

## ELBA CITY POOL

Open: Tuesday - Friday 12:00 - 6:00

Saturday 10:00 - 6:00

Sunday 1:00 - 5:00

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We will be closed Monday,  
May 26, 2003,  
ONLY in observance  
of Memorial Day.

HAVE A SAFE &amp; HAPPY HOLIDAY!

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Elba Member FDIC New Brockton

## At Class 3A state tournament

## Tiger golfers settle for second

The Elba Tiger golf team competed in the 2003 Alabama High School Athletic Association's "State Golf Tournament" on May 12-13 in Mobile and brought home the school's highest finish ever at the annual event by placing second in the eight-team field.

The Tigers trailed eventual state champion Montgomery Academy by 16 strokes after the opening round on Monday, and failed to make a run on the final day of the tournament as they placed second, 30 strokes behind the new state champions.

Elba senior Bart Barnes fired rounds of 79-75 to place third in the state with a 36-hole total of 154, while teammates Colby Capps and Timothy Jackson tied for ninth with a 161 total.

Capps, a junior, fired rounds of 78-83 to make the "Top 10," and Jackson, only a freshman, had rounds of 76-85. Elba senior Justin Allen fired rounds of 84-80 for a 164 total, placed twelve in the 48-golfer field, followed by junior Ben Dye, who tied for 35th with rounds of 95-91 for a 186 total.

The Tigers had placed third at the state tournament in 2001 and fourth in 2002, making this year's second place finish the best ever for Elba in Class 3A



**ELBA TIGER GOLF TEAM...**placed second last week at the A.H.S.A.A. Class 3A State Golf Tournament, in Mobile. Team members include (l-r) Ben Dye, Colby Capps, Justin Allen, Bart Barnes and Timothy Jackson. Coach is Susan Barnes.

competition	Montgomery Ac.	301-309-610	Good Hope	348-354-702
Following is a complete list of the top eight teams in the 3A tourney.	Elba	317-323-640	Leeds	358-357-715
	Glencoe	342-333-675	Plainview	365-355-720
	West Limestone	339-356-695	Sulligent	379-398-777

## Baseball and softball action continues for Elba teams

Following are results from last week's action in the youth baseball and softball leagues:

## DIXIE MINOR BASEBALL

\*\*\* Braves 13 Kinston Falcons 4 - The Braves scored nine runs in the third inning to take command and rolled to a 13-4 win over the Kinston Falcons. Ashton Davis ripped a grand-slam homer to spark the Braves, while Dontae Rodgers added 1 hit and Seth Hanchey scored 2 runs. Tyler Purswell got 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead the Falcons.

\*\*\* Reds 12 ZC Reds 5 - The Reds scored 10 runs in their first at-bat to take command and rolled to a big 12-5 win over the Zion Chapel Reds. Jantzen Flowers had 1 hit and scored 2 runs to lead the Reds, while Gunnar McCollough added 1 hit and scored 1 run and Taylor Ellis scored 2 runs. Will Besdole and Zach Leverett both had 1 hit for the ZC Reds, while Austin Money and Mark Blitz both scored 2 runs.

\*\*\* Reds 8 Kinston Falcons 7 - The Reds scored nine runs in every inning to ease past the Kinston Falcons 8-7. Issac Nelson and Dylan Seay both had 1 hit and scored 2 runs to lead the Reds, while Jantzen Flowers and Waylon Craighead both added 1 hit and scored 1 run. Trent Finedore had 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead the Falcons, while Jacob Evans and Trevor Fleming both scored 2 runs.

\*\*\* Blue Jays 8 Pirates 6 - The Blue Jays jumped out to an early 8-4 lead and held on late to down the Pirates 8-6. Bradley Wilson, Taylor Cotton and Justin Mallory all had 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead the Blue Jays, while Jamison Baker added 1 hit and Dylan McCollough scored 2 runs. Richard Cooks had 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead the Pirates.

## DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL

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## DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL

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**2002 ASTRO VAN LS** - loaded - one owner - great for family - AT-6 - must see



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**1999 FORD RANGER XLT** - tanneau cover



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**2000 CADILLAC DEVILLE** - low miles - like new - must see



**2001 TAHOE LS** - AT-6 - power locks/cruise - sharp



**2000 FOCUS SE** - pretty color - automatic



**2003 F250 FORD SUPER DUTY V-10** pkg - 4x4 - only 6,000 miles - local trade



**2002 MERCURY SABLE** - PS - PW/locks - tilt - cruise - alum wheels



**1997 FORD F-250 CREW CAB** - 4 WD, power stroke diesel



**1997 Z71 EX CAB SPORTSIDE** - like new AT-8



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**Randal and Betty Sasser to celebrate 50th anniversary**

**Church holds miscellaneous shower for Yelverton family**

**Elba standouts participate in East-West baseball classic**

# The Elba Clipper

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Elba, Alabama

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1 Section, 12 Pages

## During Coffee County Commission meeting Bid awarded for Mount Pleasant and Ino senior citizen centers

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission held its regular bimonthly meeting Tuesday morning, May 27, and wasted no time in taking care of business.

Commissioners began the meeting by awarding the bid for the construction of the senior citizens centers at Mount Pleasant and Ino.

Commission chairman Robert Stephens said the bids were opened last week, and he asked county administrator Wilson Mobley to present those bids Tuesday morning for those in attendance to hear.

There were six bids for the construction jobs including: Anderson Builders of Dothan (\$404,735); J.B. Head Construction of Ozark (\$502,748); R&S Construction of Rehobeth (\$410,000); Rankin Construction of Dothan (\$410,500); Russell Construction of Elba (\$600,000); and Slingluff Construction of Dothan (\$419,000).

According to Mobley the bid amounts reflected the price to build both centers, and he said the architect had reviewed the bids.

Upon the recommendation of the architect, Stephens then made a motion followed by a second from commissioner Bernest Brooks to accept the low bid and award the contract to Anderson Builders of Dothan at \$404,735.

Coffee County Revenue Commissioner Ronnie Burns was next on the agenda to address the commission, and he presented the tax settlement report for approval.

Burns said the overall collections for the county were 13 percent higher in 2002 as compared to 2001. He said the total collections for 2001 were \$7,553,371, and the total col-

lections for 2002 were \$8,561,024.

"We've had an awful good year," Burns commented.

With that said, the commission voted unanimously to accept the tax settlement report for the tax year of 2002.

While presenting general business, Mobley informed commissioners that the process for purchasing the new vehicles for the sheriff's department is progressing, and he said the department has a 1992 Chevrolet Caprice ready to be declared surplus. Therefore, he recommended the commission declare that vehicle surplus so he could list it on GovDeals for sale.

Commissioner Jim Thompson said it was his understanding that four vehicles would be sold with the purchase of the new ones.

Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates said he would have to wait until the new vehicles arrived before the other ones could be sold.

To this, Mobley said it was his understanding that the 1992 Caprice was the only vehicle not being used at all at the present time.

Before accepting a motion, county engineer Randy Tindell asked the commission to also allow some spare tires to be declared surplus and listed for sale. He said the tires would be listed separately from the vehicle and would be divided into categories (cars, trucks, etc.).

The commission voted unanimously to declare these items as surplus and list them on GovDeals.

Mobley also announced that the sign up dates for the Coffee County Farmer's Market Vouchers Program will be June 11, 12 and 13 in the community.

Please See CCC, Page 3

## Everett praises passage of 2004 defense authorization bill

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the \$400 billion 2004 Defense Authorization Act (HR 1588) that includes \$1.3 billion in defense spending impacting Southeast Alabama.

Congressman Terry Everett, R-Rehobeth, announced last week. Everett, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, secured \$342 million in additional funding for Southeast Alabama defense programs, including training and testing at Fort Rucker, new construction at Maxwell-Gunter, new Blackhawk helicopter production at Tallassee, and testing of a new anti-missile system to be partially produced at Pike County's Lockheed Martin.

"As Fort Rucker is set to begin Flight School XXI for Army aviators, I was pleased to secure \$148 million in additional funds to ensure the training program has the resources to adequately prepare our future Army helicopter pilots," Everett said. "While I supported the Administration's original request for \$500 million for flight training, it is clear that student backlogs and the need to expand flight experience in combat aircraft has created the need for increased funding." Everett continued, "Of course, flight training funding at Fort

Rucker is key to the maintenance work performed on post by Dyncorp and instructor pilot services provided by Lear Siegler."

"The 2004 Defense Authorization Act also includes my request for \$74 million in additional funding for the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center at Fort Rucker," Everett observed. "This increase is necessary for the ATTC to achieve a higher level of efficiency in the electronic collection of flight test data."

"Also of interest to Fort Rucker is the defense bill's inclusion of \$1 billion for further research and development of the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter. Training for the Comanche, once in production, will take place at Fort Rucker."

"For Maxwell-Gunter, Air Force Base in Montgomery, I was pleased to see granted my request for a \$12.6 million Integrated Operational Support Facility," Everett said. "The project will upgrade and consolidate the Gunter Standards Systems Group computer and communications operations by bringing them together in a single modern facility. I was also happy to support the Administration's budget request for \$13.4 million for Phase III of the Squadron Officer School Dormitory at Maxwell. These

## Ballard Bridge project draws closer to completion

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County's Ballard Bridge long ago became infamous for its dangerous crossings which sometimes led to deadly accidents, but that story will soon change as the construction of a new bridge continues to near its completion.

It was just over a year ago, April 16, 2002, when the Alabama Department of Transportation announced the beginning of the Ballard Bridge project with McInnis LLC of Montgomery as the primary contractor. Today, David Jewell, bridge superintendent for McInnis, says the overall project is running about six percent ahead of schedule.

"The old bridge is a dangerous place," Jewell said. "It scares me to death every time a tractor trailer comes up because you never know what will happen."

Although McInnis is the primary contractor for the overall project, Jewell said the company has only done the concrete work itself for the bridge. As for the other aspects of the job, he said subcontractors have been hired such as S.A. Graham of Brundidge to do the dirt work.

"We started our work in July of last year," Jewell said. "As of now, the riding surface of the bridge is finished, but it still needs the rails."

He also said the dirt work began this week, and the completion of this portion of the project will depend greatly upon "Mother Nature" and the amount of rain the area receives in the upcoming weeks.

"Every time it rains, it pushes



This photo gives a good view of the riding surface of the new bridge. Once completed, it will be much wider than the current Ballard Bridge which should provide much safer travel for motorists. Traffic continues to travel along Ballard Bridge while work continues on the new bridge.

the projected completion date out that much further," said Jewell. "This means three or four inches of rain could push the project back as much as a month."

He did say the project has been fortunate in regards to the river because it has not risen enough at any given time to interfere with the work.

The current projected date for completion is July, but Jewell said it is most likely to

be September before the bridge is ready to be opened to traffic.

Until that time, he said the subcontractors will continue their work in completing the dirt preparation, installing the guard rails, pouring the asphalt and striping the roadway, as

well as, any other job needing to be finished in order to open the new bridge.

"It's going to be so much better out here in a few months," Jewell said. "Maybe we won't have any more wrecks before then."

## Excitement building in Elba during sesquicentennial celebration

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Interest is growing and excitement is building as the City of Elba continues its year long celebration of 150 years with "Celebrate...Elba 150."

Elba Chamber of Commerce director Kaye Whitworth said the Sesquicentennial committee has been hard at work planning events throughout the year to help the former and current citi-

zens of Elba celebrate the town's rich history, and she said some of the year's best events are just around the corner.

"We've had great participation thus far with our events, but we are looking forward to even more as we really get busy in the upcoming months," she said. The next item on the agenda will be the beginning of ticket sales for the Aug. 23 George Jones concert.

Whitworth said this is a first time ever event for Elba as one of country music's biggest names will deliver one of his legendary shows for the city's birthday celebration.

Tickets for this event go on sale tomorrow (Friday, May 30) at 8:02 p.m. from Elba City Hall. There will be reserved and general admission tickets sold for the event.

One of the most exciting events to come will more than likely be the July 12 Elba Birthday Party as all citizens will be able to gather around the historic downtown square beginning at 6 p.m. to help celebrate this occasion.

Whitworth said the evening will be filled with food, entertainment and fun for the whole family with a breathtaking fireworks conclusion.

"No one will want to miss this fireworks expedition," she said. "It's going to be the biggest Elba has ever delivered."

Also, she said there will be a "surprise" birthday cake for the event and the one-and-only Dr. Sam Faulk will be in town for the celebration.

"There will also be a great opportunity for Elba families to have their picture made on the square during this 150th birthday party," Whitworth said. As the events continue through October, four days have been designated that month for the celebration of Elba's history. It will begin on Thursday, Oct. 9, with the presentation of the "History of Elba" play. The next day (Friday, Oct. 10) will begin with a prayer breakfast at Elba First Baptist Church with the remainder of the day focusing on an Elba Business Expo on the square.

"Friday, Oct. 10, has also been designated as Elba Sesquicentennial (shirt day)," Whitworth said. "Everyone will be encouraged to wear their sesquicentennial t-shirts on this day."

The Sesquicentennial Festival and grand celebration will be presented Saturday, Oct. 11, around the downtown square and promises to be a great day with several highlight events such as a parade, entertainment and boat rides down the famous

Pea River. Whitworth said published author and former Elba resident Bob Inman will be the keynote speaker at that event.

This four-day event concludes with a reception on Sunday, Oct. 12, as many former and current dignitaries will be invited to come and join in the celebration.

"Although we are really looking forward to these highlight events, we hope everyone will take the time to participate in all the upcoming events," Whitworth said. "This is such an important time in history for Elba and its citizens, and the hope of the sesquicentennial committee is that anyone who shares a love for the city will come out and help us celebrate in fashion."

The remaining "Celebrate...Elba 150" events include:

- June 14**  
Ole Timers Softball
- June 21**  
Youth/Sr. Fishing Tourney
- Heath Fair** at hospital
- July 12**  
Birthday Party "150"
- August 23**  
George Jones Concert
- September 6**  
Sesquicentennial Ball
- King/Queen Crowning**
- September 25**  
Chamber Banquet "150"
- October 9**  
"History of Elba" Play
- October 10**  
Prayer Breakfast • 150 T-shirt Day • Merchant Appreciation Day
- October 11**  
Grand Celebration
- October 12**  
Reception